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United States Senate

<http://santorum.senate.gov>

July 3, 2006

The Honorable R. David Paulison
Director of Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Center Plaza
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Director Paulison,

I am writing thank you for your dedication to the flood response and recovery efforts underway in Pennsylvania, and to express my concern regarding the timing of further declarations. Many Pennsylvanians remain in jeopardy because of the severe damage inflicted by the floodwaters.

As you know, last week Governor Edward Rendell requested an expedited review for Federal Disaster for 34 Pennsylvania counties. On Friday, June 30, President Bush declared a major disaster for eight Pennsylvania counties in response to widespread flooding. These counties are now eligible for Public Assistance, which includes debris removal and emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance.

However, I am particularly concerned that FEMA has not yet declared eligibility for Individual Assistance. I am aware that Preliminary Disaster Assessment (PDA) teams comprised of FEMA and PEMA officials are conducting the requisite reviews of the impacted counties before individual assistance can be granted. These reviews must happen expeditiously, as thousands of Pennsylvanians are in need of assistance from their government, and their needs should be nothing less than a top priority.

I have toured several of the affected counties in the Commonwealth, and I am certain that these counties are eligible for Individual Assistance, and I believe that further Public Assistance declarations may be warranted. Accordingly, I request that you review the number of FEMA personnel that are assigned to the Pennsylvania disaster recovery effort to make sure that there are adequate personnel tasked to this important effort. Further, I request that you review the findings of the PDA teams in an expedited fashion so that all appropriate disaster aid reaches my constituents as quickly as possible.

Again, thank you for your dedication to this important effort. I look forward to continuing to work with you on behalf of those who have lost so much to these devastating floods.

Sincerely,


Rick Santorum
United States Senate

cc: Governor Edward G. Rendell

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